

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1799.

NEW-YORK, March 3.

Extra of a letter from a highly respectable character, to his friend in this city.

ST. THOMAS'S, February 14.

CAPTAIN HOWARD, of St. Croix, has this moment arrived from Basseterre, St. Kitt's, and informs, that he saw an engagement on the 11th instant, off St. Kitt's, between the Constellation, captain Truxton, and a French frigate of 36 guns.

The action commenced at three o'clock, P. M. and lasted about two hours and a half, when the French frigate struck.

He saw the Constellation and the French frigate let go their anchors at Basseterre, as he was coming out.

The two frigates got into the harbour on the morning of the 12th.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the senate,

I transmit you a document which seems to be intended to be a compliance with the condition mentioned at the conclusion of my message to congress of the 21st June last.

Always disposed and ready to embrace every plausible appearance of probability of preserving or restoring tranquillity—I nominate Wm. Vans Murray, our minister resident at the Hague, to be minister plenipotentiary to the French republic.

If the senate shall advise and consent to his appointment, effectual care shall be taken in his instructions, that he shall not go to France, without direct and unequivocal assurances from the French government, signified by their minister of exterior relations, that he shall be received in character, shall enjoy the privileges attached to his character, by the laws of nations; and that a minister of equal rank, title and powers, shall be appointed to treat with him, to discuss and conclude all controversies between the two republics, by a new treaty.

JOHN ADAMS.

United States, } Feb. 18, 1799. } [A Copy.]

[C O P Y.]

LIBERTY [L. S.] EQUALITY.

Exterior Relations, 3d Division.

Paris, 7th Vendemaire, of the 7th year of the French republic, one and indivisible.

The minister of Exterior Relations, to citizen Pichon, secretary of Legation, of the French republic, near the Batavian republic.

I have received successively, citizen, your letters of the 22d and 27th Fructidor; they afford me more and more reason to be pleased with the manner you have adopted, to detail to me your conversation with Mr. Murray. These conversations at first, merely friendly, have required consistency, by the sanction I have given to them by my letter of the 11th Fructidor. I do not regret that you have trusted to Mr. Murray's honour, a copy of my letter. It was intended for you only, and contained nothing but what is conformable to the intentions of government. I am thoroughly convinced, that should explanations take place with confidence, between the two administrations, irritations would cease, a crowd of misrepresentations would disappear, and the ties of friendship would be more strongly united, as each party would discover the hand that sought to disunite them.

But I will not conceal from you, that your letters of the 2d and 3d Vendemaire, just received, surprise me much. What Mr. Murray is still dubious of, has been explicitly declared, even before the president's message to congress, of the 3d Messidor last, was known in France: I had written it to Mr. Gerry, namely, on the 24th Messidor, and 4th Thermidor. I did not repeat it to him before he set out.—A whole paragraph of my letter to you, of the 11th Fructidor, of which Mr. Murray has a copy, is devoted to develop the fixed determination of the French government, according to these bases.—You were right to assert, that whatever plenipotentiary the government of the United States might send to France, to put an end to existing differences, between the two countries, would be undoubtedly received, with the respect due to the representative of a free, powerful, and independent nation.

Can you, citizen, conceive, that the American government need any further declarations from us to induce them, to order to renew the negotiation, to adopt such measures as would be suggested to them by their desire to bring differences to a peaceable end?

If misunderstandings on both sides have prevented former explanations from reaching their end, it is pre-

sumable that those misunderstandings being done away, nothing henceforth will bring obstacles to the reciprocal dispositions. The president's instructions to his envoys at Paris, which I have only known by the copy given you by Mr. Murray, and received by me on the 21st Messidor, announcing (if they contain the whole of the American government's instructions) dispositions which could only have been added to those which the Directory has always entertained; and notwithstanding the irritating and almost hostile measures they have adopted, the Directory has manifested its preference in the sentiments, which are deposited both in my correspondence with Mr. Gerry, and in my letter to you of the 11th Fructidor, and which I have herein before repeated in the most explicit manner. Carry, therefore, citizen, to Mr. Murray, those positive expressions in order to convince him of our sincerity, and prevail upon him to transmit them to his government.

I presume, citizen, that this letter will find you at the Hague; if not, I ask that it may be sent back to you at Paris.

Salute and fraternity.

(Signed)

CH. MAU. TALLEYRAND.

Gentlemen of the senate,

THE proposition of a fresh negotiation with France, in consequence of advances made by the French government having excited so general an attention and so much conversation, as to have given occasion to many manifestations of the public opinion, by which it appears to me, that a new modification, of the embassy will give more general satisfaction to the nation, and perhaps better answer the purposes we have in view.

It is upon this supposition, and with this expectation, I now nominate Oliver Ellsworth, Esq; chief justice of the United States, Patrick Henry, Esq; late governor of Virginia, and Wm. Vans Murray, our minister resident at the Hague, to be envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary to the French republic, with full powers to discuss and settle by treaty, all controversies between the United States and France.

It is not intended that the two former of these gentlemen shall embark for Europe, until they shall have received from the Executive Directory, direct and unequivocal assurances, signified by their secretary of foreign relations, and that they shall enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that character by the law of nations, and that a minister or ministers of equal power shall be appointed and commissioned to treat with them.

JOHN ADAMS.

February 25, 1799.

CHARLESTON, February 22. IMPORTANT!!

His excellency, governor Rutledge, and the collector of this report, about five weeks ago received a letter from colonel Pickering, secretary of state of the United States, to the following effect:

That government had obtained intelligence that four persons were to embark from Hamburg for this port, as agents of the French Directory, with dispatches of a hostile nature to the peace and welfare of the United States.

The secretary of state then gave the names of the persons and their description; also of the vessel, and the passports which it was expected they would have; and informed further, that the dispatches and papers of consequence, would be secreted in two false bottomed tubs, and requested that the necessary steps should be taken to secure the suspected persons and their papers, as soon as they arrived here.

Captain Thompson, the boarding officer of the port, was accordingly instructed to notice, particularly, and report without delay all passengers from Europe.

Yesterday he had the happiness and good fortune to board the brig Minerva, captain Cramp, in 119 days from Hamburg, and received her arrival, and that there were four or five passengers on board. This brig was the expected vessel, and the collector Major Simons, attended by Mr. William Crafts, agent of the United States for the naval and war departments, went immediately on board, with proper assistance, to examine and secure the suspected persons and their papers.

As soon as they got on board, they inquired for persons by names they had received, and were answered affirmatively; these were directly searched and given into custody, and the search continued for the tubs which were fortunately discovered in the cabin. The tubs were broken open, and the papers taken out, the horrors of guilt were depicted strongly on the countenances of the guilty wretches, and their bodies shook with fear and trembling.

There was a design to have thrown them overboard from the cabin window, but it was prevented by the

expedition of the gentlemen who undertook the business. Three of the fellows are mulattoes, and one of them a white person; a woman was also taken up, who was evidently concerned in the conspiracy, and endeavoured to take care of the tubs under her arm.

The four men and their female accomplice, are now confined at Fort Pinckney, their trunks and baggage are taken to the custom-house, and the important TALKS OF THE TUBS are under the examination of major-general Pinckney, to whom they were immediately delivered. The development will come out in season.

NORFOLK, March 2.

Extra of a letter from Buller Cocke, purser of the United States brig Richmond, to Wm. Penneck, Esq; received by the brig Peggy and Betsy, arrived here from St. Kitt's, dated off St. Kitt's, February 11.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure of informing you we this day at 11 o'clock A. M. Basseterre roads bearing N. E. distant about four leagues, fell in with the United States frigate Constellation, captain Truxton, having in company the Insurgente, French frigate of 42 guns and 360 men, her prize, who struck after losing 50 men, and otherwise very much damaged. The Constellation lost three men only. Captain Truxton gave us this information himself.

From other information we learn, the action commenced off Nevis, and after a long running fight they came to close quarters off Sandy Point, when after a severe battle of one hour the French ship struck.

Captain Holmes, who was the bearer of the above letter, informs, that the day he left St. Kitt's, he fell in with the Constellation and her prize, which appeared to be very roughly handled, having her main-mast shot away; the rigging of the Constellation was a good deal shattered.

BALTIMORE, March 11.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman on board the United States ship of war Montezuma, dated February 19th, 1799.

After giving an account of the capture of the French frigate Insurgente, he says, "Captain Truxton has sent a cartel to Guadaloupe, with 50 men of the prisoners, under the command of Mr. Robinson, one of his officers, who, on his arrival, was insulted and abused by the mob at Basseterre, Guadaloupe; he set off from thence to Point Petre to treat with the general for an exchange of prisoners. Commodore Barry, of the United States' frigate, coming down from Barbadoes to Martinico, with a fleet, fell in with the French privateer L'Amour de Patrie, which sunk on the third shot being fired, and from which sixty men were saved. The British frigate La Concorde brought into Basseterre, St. Kitt's, a corvette of 16 guns, belonging to Guadaloupe, who had thrown her guns overboard, on finding herself likely to be taken. Captain Nicholson, of the frigate Constitution, retook a British ship laden with naval stores, from the French, but after he had kept her a while, found that he had no instructions for doing so, let her go again, which has displeased the British very much in these islands.

The French were on the point of starving in Guadaloupe lately, had it not been for the Insurgente, which escaped from the British, who were closely investing Point Petre, and before she was out 24 hours, captured 5 valuable ships from the British, which had scattered from the late convoy. It is said the Insurgente is a remarkable fast sailer; she has been chased often by the frigates to windward, but they could never come near her.

We are going to cruise off Curacao a while and off Cuba. In six or eight weeks we shall return home."

On board the prize frigate L'Insurgente, St. Christopher's, 15th February, 1799.

MAJOR STODERT,

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure I inform you of the victory we have gained over the cursed violators of our peace. At meridian on the 10th inst. Nevis bearing W. S. W. distance 5 or 6 leagues; saw a large ship to the southward, bore away, and gave chase, at one P. M. made the British privateer signal for the day, it not being answered, made the American signal, neither of which being answered, it was suspected the chase was an enemy, notwithstanding the bad an American ensign flying at the mizen peak; soon after those suspicions proved well founded, for the American ensign was haled down, and the French national flag hoisted in its place, and a gun fired to windward, upon which, our brave commander (who well deserves the appellation) ordered the ship placed, and every thing got ready for battle, according to our established rules on board that ship.